

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently amended). A method of treating hypertension comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an agent, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, capable of reducing uric acid levels in xanthine oxidase inhibitor to a patient in need of such treatment.

2. (Currently canceled). A method of preventing hypertension comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an agent, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, capable of reducing uric acid levels in a patient in need of such treatment.

3. (Previously withdrawn). A method of treating coronary heart disease comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an agent, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, capable of reducing uric acid levels in a patient in need of such treatment.

4. (Previously withdrawn). A method of treating and preventing eclampsia comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an agent, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, capable of reducing uric acid levels in a patient in need of such treatment.

5. (Currently amended). A composition for treating hypertension comprising an ~~An agent capable of reducing uric acid levels selected from the group consisting of: gene therapy, a xanthine oxidase inhibitor; a uricosuric agent; supplements of the uricase protein and a urate channel inhibitor; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salts~~ salt thereof ~~or combinations therefrom.~~

6. (Withdrawn). The agent capable of reducing uric acid levels, as recited in Claim 5, which is gene therapy that targets the overexpression of uricase.

7. (Currently amended). ~~The agent capable of reducing uric acid levels, as recited in composition of Claim 5, wherein the which is a xanthine oxidase inhibitor selected from the group consisting of: is~~ allopurinol, and carprofen, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. (Withdrawn). The agent capable of reducing uric acid levels, as recited in Claim 5, which is a uricosuric agent selected from the group consisting of: losartan, benzbromarone,

benziodarone, probenecid, sulfinpyrazone, ethebencid, orotic acid, ticrynafen and zoxazolamine, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. (Withdrawn). The agent capable of reducing uric acid levels, as recited in Claim 5, which is a supplement of uricase protein that is delivered as a conjugate with polyethylene glycol or an alternate delivery system.

10. (Withdrawn). A pharmaceutical composition comprising a renin angiotensin system (RAS) inhibitor, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and the agent, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, capable of reducing uric acid levels as recited in Claim 5, and a pharmaceutical carrier.

11. (Withdrawn). A combination therapy comprising the administration, concomitantly, simultaneously or sequentially, of therapeutically effective amounts of a RAS inhibitor, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and the agent, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, capable of reducing uric acid levels as recited in Claim 5.

12. (Withdrawn). The pharmaceutical composition levels as recited in Claim 10, further comprising a diuretic, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. (Withdrawn). A combination therapy comprising the administration, concomitantly, simultaneously or sequentially, of therapeutically effective amounts of a combination of a RAS inhibitor, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof with a diuretic, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and the agent, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, capable of reducing uric acid levels as recited in Claim 5.

Please add the following new claims.

14. (New). The method according to claim 1 wherein the xanthine oxidase inhibitor is allopurinol, carprofen or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.